

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Volume 2, Issue 15, July 18, 2003

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Message from the Mayor

In the past few weeks, there has been ample debate in our city about the public safety issues that face us on a daily basis. Every day, my administration and our Metropolitan Police Department are working tirelessly to attack crime in our neighborhoods — and we will not rest while we work toward our goals.

I'm working with the DC Council on a common agenda: to make our city safe for our citizens. We have some major challenges ahead, and my hope is that we can face them together. As many of you know, I wholeheartedly support Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey. He is a good police chief, and he's doing a fine job. I feel strongly that Chief Ramsey can meet the challenge we're facing with our crime rate.

I am happy to report that the percentage of homicide cases that have been closed has increased to 50 percent — a dramatic improvement from this time last year when the homicide closure rate was 30 percent. This is a testament to some of the progress the MPD is making. My goal is to give Chief Ramsey the resources he needs to continue our progress in this area.

My vision for public safety is simple — I want us to help foster a real sense of community, a place citizens can depend on, trust and work with our officers. It takes all of us to be committed, as Chief Ramsey and I are, to working with the community to build safe and strong neighborhoods.

Diversity is our strongest asset as a city. That's why we're committed to increasing our Latino representation on our police force, as evidenced by the hiring of 26 officers from Puerto Rico. So my public safety goals remain intact:

- Implement a new Patrol Service Area (PSA) system to better deploy officers in crime areas and increase community connection.
- Deploy one "Operation Fightback" each week in a new Persistent Problem Area.
- Enhance the abandoned auto process.
- Improve homicide investigation capacity through the "Lateral Senior Detectives Act of 2003" and the "Senior Detectives Act of 2003."
- Increase the number of police officers deployed to 3,660 in 2003 and 3,800 by the end of 2004.

In other news, I'd like to commend our citizens who attended our two Arson Education and Awareness Town Hall Meetings in Ward 5 and Ward 7. The meetings were as productive for city officials as they were for citizens. Those who attended learned about ways to prevent arson and ways to work with the community and with the MPD to help apprehend arson suspects. As in any crime situation, we can only accomplish our goals if we work together.

Citizens will also have an opportunity to take part in our annual National Night Out activities on Tuesday, August 5. We're planning a host of informative and fun activities. For more information, stay abreast of our Metropolitan Police Department's website at: www.mpdcc.gov or the national site, at www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

President Bush Visits KIPP DC: Key Academy

On July 1, I had the pleasure of welcoming President George W. Bush and U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige to the KIPP DC: Key Academy charter school in Southeast. The three of us met to discuss education reform and increasing parental options during the visit to KIPP Academy, which has become a model of great teaching in the District. Councilmember Kevin Chavous, School Board President Peggy Cooper Cafritz, parents, students and other local leaders joined us for the event.

It was a distinct honor and privilege to have President Bush at the academy. I know his heart belongs to Crawford, Texas but I hope he and the First Lady have come to view the District as their second home. I also know that his heart belongs to the children of America and that he has a vision to improve public education in America to a point where we will "leave no child behind." Now, through our combined efforts, I hope that the children in our city will not be left behind.



Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, Mayor Williams and President Bush

In order to improve K through 12 education, I believe it is essential for parents to have options. They should have a real choice when it comes to educating their children. They should be able to consider a magnet program in a neighborhood school, or an innovative charter school, or an improving public school, or the chance to apply for a scholarship to help pay the tuition at a private school. That's the kind of choice that will inspire competition and foster innovation.

President Bush's visit to KIPP Academy underscores his commitment to helping us realize these choices. His focus on accountability and performance inspires all of us. And despite the heated rhetoric that often accompanies the public discussion of these issues, I am pleased to join the president, and so many others, in helping bring real choice to District families. We have terrific assets in DC — an array of public schools throughout the city, one of the nation's most robust charter school programs, and a variety of private and parochial schools. As I have worked with Councilmember Chavous, Superintendent Paul Vance and School Board Chair Peggy Cooper Cafritz, I have been impressed with their willingness and determination to improve the state of education in our city.

Employee Profile

Regina Hart Shaw

Regina Hart Shaw has served as the Assistant General Counsel for the Department of Banking and Financial Institutions (DBFI) since January 2001. Regina's responsibilities include drafting legislation and legal memoranda governing financial institutions; initiating enforcement action against financial institutions to ensure compliance with District and federal laws; and responding to written and oral inquiries from financial institutions and the public. Regina was successful in negotiating a monetary reduction in a mortgage loan payoff for a District resident who was overcharged fees on her loan and has drafted several significant regulatory provisions. She played a major role in assuring that the District and its consumers were represented in one of the largest multi-state settlements with a mortgage lender. Regina is a committed and dedicated worker who makes it a priority to respond to the public in a timely and efficient manner. Regina also serves as the Ethics Counselor for DBFI.



Regina Hart Shaw

"Regina is one of our most valuable employees and is always a pleasure to work with," said DBFI Commissioner S. Kathryn Allen. "She is involved in an array of substantive projects, and she consistently performs well in all areas. Regina significantly enhances the effectiveness of DBFI and the District of Columbia government." Prior to joining DBFI, Regina worked as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the D.C. Office of the Corporation Counsel and Legal Counsel for Councilmember Kevin P. Chavous, Ward 7. Regina completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, where she graduated in May 1994. In May 1997, she graduated cum laude from the District of Columbia School of Law. Regina earned a Master of Laws degree in Securities and Financial Regulations from the Georgetown University Law Center in May 2002. A native Washingtonian, Regina currently resides in Ward 8 with her husband Tony. She is an avid reader and keeps herself in shape by playing tennis as often as her busy schedule permits.



Bellevue Housing Counseling Center

On July 7, I joined other local officials for the groundbreaking of the Bellevue Housing Counseling Resource Center on South Capitol Street in Southwest.

Once built, this unique facility will contain a housing counseling resource center; a home buying program; a financial and economic development counseling center; a mini-neighborhood museum; and, an 1,800-square-foot computer learning lab. The new center will involve approximately \$350,000 in renovations to an existing building, which is currently commercial space of a shopping center.

The center aims to:

- Relocate residents during demolition of a building
- Help residents locate suitable housing within a revitalized area and/or back on redeveloped properties from which they were displaced
- Establish various levels of homebuyer's clubs to assist residents with long and short range program opportunities which would position them to purchase homes
- Provide financial and economic development counseling for sustainability of residents and businesses in the community
- Provide entrepreneurial seminars for new businesses
- Assist existing businesses with expansion and/or profitable maintenance activities

When I took office as Mayor, I promised to bring economic development to every corner of this city. I'm very proud of all the hard work that will go into the Bellevue center, and I congratulate all those involved for their passion for the District of Columbia. It's a team effort and a great example of a partnership that helps our city thrive.

Anacostia Community Boathouse Dedication

Last Saturday, I headed to the Anacostia River waterfront to help commemorate the new Anacostia Community Boathouse. The purpose of the celebration was to pause and reflect how much this beautiful boathouse has done to bring citizens back to the Anacostia River area and supporting the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.

The Anacostia Community Boathouse Association was formed last year when a consortium of rowing clubs and environmental groups banded with our Department of Public Works (DPW) and the National Park Service to lease an existing but dilapidated DPW warehouse on the Anacostia River and turn it into a working boathouse.

The mission of the association and its members is to bring the community back to the Anacostia River and specifically to rowing, canoeing, and kayaking. Capital Rowing Club is conducting two youth programs in conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the National Youth Sports Programs. For several years, volunteers from the Rowing Club have taught hundreds of children to row, to know basic water safety, and importantly, to appreciate the river and environment that runs so close to their homes.

The boathouse is a tremendous example of what happens when citizens and government work together toward a shared goal. Ten years ago it was a warehouse. Today it's a spectacular working boathouse. It's now a small victory in our common, larger goal of a beautified Anacostia River.

I began my campaign for Mayor on the banks of the Anacostia. The river is one of our city's most important but undervalued natural resources — and it must be reconnected to the city that rests upon its shores. Since then, we've partnered with more than 18 federal agencies to build new housing, clean up the islands, restore wetlands, build the Anacostia Riverwalk, introduce new recreational uses and educate our children

Three years ago, on the banks of the river, representatives from 18 federal and District agencies joined me to sign the memorandum that created the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. Since then, under the leadership of Andy Altman and the DC Office of Planning, this partnership has become the most important ever created between the District and the federal government. It sets forth a plan to reconnect our city with the Anacostia River and revitalize the neighborhoods along its waterfront.



Union Signing Agreement

On July 9, I welcomed a host of union leaders to the John A. Wilson Building for the signing of an important initiative. One of the goals of the District Department of Employment Services is obtaining commitments from members of the Building and Construction Trade Unions to accept more District residents into its apprenticeship programs. As a result, eight unions have committed to hiring over 260 District residents.

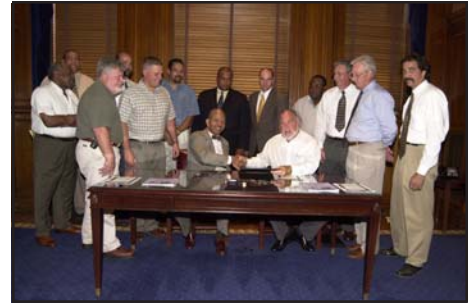
The following unions have made commitments: Asbestos Union Local No. 24; Plumbers Union Local No. 5; Bricklayers Union Local No. 1; Laborer Joint Training Fund; Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship; Iron Worker Union Local No. 5; Cement Mason Union Local No 891; and, Stationary Eng. Union Local No. 99.

These commitments are significant because apprenticeship is not just a job. Apprenticeships lead to jobs with both career development and excellent salaries. Apprentices earn a salary while they learn a craft. Now, I'm proud to say that the District government and the Building and Construction Trade unions will partner to enroll more city residents as apprentices.

Apprenticeships offer young adults the opportunity to learn a rewarding trade through hands-on training. At the ceremony, I thanked the unions for their commitment to the District by making these opportunities available to hundreds of new apprentices. This is truly significant.

I was also impressed and appreciative of union partnership in the Step-Up Apprenticeship Program in conjunction with the new Washington Convention Center. The program goal was to enroll 100 residents over the duration of the project. I am pleased to say that we exceeded that goal with 126 residents and that the training program initiative will continue throughout the completion of the Convention Center.

Construction in the District has been at an all time high. And there is a continuing need for skilled workers in the building and construction trades. The commitment from the participating unions will create more apprenticeship training and employment opportunities for District residents.



Mayor Williams recognized the commitment of members of the Building and Construction Trade Unions to accept more District residents into their apprenticeship programs

District Activities



Mayor Williams joined Leroy Thorpe in presenting Chief Ramsey with the Citizens Patrol Group Police Chief of the Year Award on Saturday, July 12.



Mayor Williams and Prince Georges County Executive Jack Johnson, conducted a news conference on July 3 to discuss joint cooperation between jurisdictions on the serial arson investigation.



Community News

Mayor Williams Encourages President's Support of Americorps
Mayor Announces Hiring of 20 "Lifelong Learning Coaches" in DC
District Narrows Finalist of Four Teams to Two for Development of Old Convention Center Site

[View all News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

- | | |
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| 7/15
to
7/19 | Second Annual DC Hip Hop Theatre Festival
Visit DC Arts for times and venues |
| 7/26 | Korean War Veterans Armistic Day Parade
9 am
Beginning on 17th Street, NW between Constitution and Independence Avenues
Ending at Lincoln Memorial |
| 8/3 | National Kids Day
The Ellipse
12 noon - 6 am
For more information, call (301) 562-2016 |
| 8/5 | National Night Out Kick-Off
5 pm
Fort Stanton Recreation Center
18th and Erie Streets, SE |
| 8/16 | Adult Literacy Festival and Recruitment Fair
11 am - 2 pm
Vermont Avenue, NW between R and 11th Streets
For more information, call (202) 234-BOOK |
| 8/24 | 40th Anniversary of the "March on Washington"
9 am
Lincoln Memorial grounds on National Mall
For more information, call (202) 544-8026 |

[View the Mayor's daily schedule](#)

